

THE COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington D.C. 20231
Box Patent Applications

Case Docket No. FUJO 16,446
Filed by Express Mail
(Receipt No. EM366877202US)
on August 31, 1999
pursuant to 37 CFR 1.10
by Yasuji OTA

S I R:

Transmitted herewith for filing is: ☒ a new application
☐ a c-i-p application of S.N. _____ filed _____

Inventor(s): Yasuji OTA; Masanao SUZUKI; Yoshiteru TSUCHINAGA

For: VOICE CODING METHOD, VOICE CODING APPARATUS, AND VOICE
DECODING APPARATUS

Enclosed are:

- ☒ 16 sheets of drawings. (Figs.1-9,10A-10C,11-15,16A-16C)
☒ Specification, including claims and abstract (37 pages)
☒ Declaration
☒ An assignment of the Invention to FUJITSU LIMITED
☒ A certified copy of Japanese Application No(s). 10-246724 and 11-181959
☒ An associate power of attorney
☐ A verified statement to establish small entity status under 37 CFR 1.9 and 37 CFR 1.27
☒ Post card
☒ Recording fee (as indicated below)
☒ Information Disclosure Statement, PTO-1449, copies of 3 references
☐ Other _____
☐ Other _____

	Col. 1	Col. 2
FOR:	NO. FILED	NO. EXTRA
BASIC FEE		
TOTAL CLAIMS	18-20 = 0	
INDEP CLAIMS	4-3 = 1	
<input type="checkbox"/> MULTIPLE DEPENDENT CLAIMS PRESENTED		

*If the difference in Col. 1 is less than
zero, enter "0" in Col. 2

SMALL ENTITY	
RATE	FEE
	\$380
x 9 =	\$
x 39 =	\$
x 130 =	\$
TOTAL	\$

OTHER THAN A SMALL ENTITY	
RATE	FEE
	\$760
x 18 =	\$
x 78 =	\$ 78
x 260 =	\$
TOTAL	\$838

- ☐ Please charge our Deposit Account No. 08-1634 the amount of _____ to cover the filing fee
and recording fee (if any)
- ☒ A check in the amount of \$878.00 to cover the filing fee and the recording fee (if any) is enclosed.
- ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any fee associated with this communication or
credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 08-1634. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Helfgott & Karas, P.C.
60th Floor
Empire State Building
New York, New York 10118-6098
(212)643-5000

Respectfully Submitted,

- ☐ Aaron B. Karas, Reg. No. 18,923
☒ Samson Helfgott, Reg. No. 23,072
☐ Leonard Cooper, Reg. No. 27, 625
☐ Linda S. Chan, Reg. No. 42,400
☐ Jacqueline M. Steady, Reg. No. 44,354

Date: August 31, 1999

Any fee due with this paper, not fully
covered by an enclosed check, may be
charged on Deposit Acct No. 08-1634

Filed by Express Mail
(Receipt No. 4268225)
on 8/31/95
pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.10.
by Shen

APPLICATION FOR

UNITED STATES LETTERS PATENT

SPECIFICATION

Inventor(s): Yasuji OTA, Masanao SUZUKI,
and Yoshiteru TSUCHINAGA

Title of the Invention: VOICE CODING METHOD, VOICE CODING
APPARATUS, AND VOICE DECODING
APPARATUS

Voice Coding Method, Voice Coding Apparatus, and Voice Decoding Apparatus

Background of the Invention

5 Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to a voice coding/decoding technology based on A-b-s (Analysis-by-Synthesis) vector quantization.

10 Description of the Related Art

The voice coding system represented by the CELP (Code Excited Linear Prediction) coding system based on the A-b-s vector quantization is applied when the transmission rate of a PCM voice signal is compressed from, for example, 64 Kbits/sec (kilobits/seconds) to approximately 4 through 16 kbits/sec. The voice coding system is demanded as a system for compressing information while maintaining voice quality in an in-house communications system, a digital mobile radio system, etc.

FIG. 1 shows the conventional A-b-S vector quantization system. 51 is a code book, 52 is a gain unit, 53 is a linear prediction synthesis filter, 54 is a subtracter, and 55 is an error power evaluation unit.

In an A-b-S vector quantization coder, the gain unit 52 first multiplies the code vector C read from the code book 51 by a gain g. Then, the linear prediction synthesis filter 53 inputs the above described the scaled code vector, and outputs a reproduced signal gAC. Then, the subtracter 54 subtracts the reproduced signal gAC from an input signal X, thereby outputting an error signal E which indicates the difference between them. Furthermore, the error power evaluation unit 55 computes an error power according to an error signal E. The above described process is performed on all code vectors C in the code book 51 with optimal gains g, the index of the code vector C and the gain g which generate the smallest error power are computed, and they are transmitted to a decoder.

In an A-b-S vector quantization decoder, the code vector C corresponding to the index transmitted from the coder is read from the code book 51. Then, the gain unit 52 scales the code vector C by the gain g transmitted from the coder. Then, the linear prediction synthesis filter 53 inputs the scaled code vector, and outputs the decoded regenerated signal gAC. The decoder does not require the subtracter 54 and the error power evaluation unit 55.

As described above, in the A-b-S vector quantization coder, an analyzing process is performed while a synthesizing (decoding) process is performed on a code vector C

5 FIG. 2 shows a typical conventional CELP system based on the above described A-b-S vector quantization system.

10 In this CELP system, two types of code books, that is, an adaptive code book corresponding to a periodic (pitch) sound source and a fixed code book corresponding to a noisy (random) sound source. According to this system, an A-b-S vector quantizing process mainly for the periodic voice (voiced sound, etc.) and a succeeding A-b-S vector quantizing process
15 mainly for a noisy voice (unvoiced sound, background sound, etc.) are sequentially performed based on respective code books.

20 In FIG. 2, 61 is a fixed code book, 62 is an adaptive code book, 63 and 64 are gain units, 65 and 66 are linear prediction synthesis filters, 67 and 68 are error power evaluation units, and 69 and 70 are subtracters. Each of the fixed code book 61 corresponding to a random sound source and the adaptive code book 62 corresponding to a pitch sound
25 source are contained in the memory. The gain units 63

and 64, the linear prediction synthesis filters 65 and 66, the error power evaluation units 67 and 68, and the subtracters 69 and 70 can be realized by operation elements such as a DSP (digital signal processor),
5 etc.

In the CELP coder with the above described configuration, the portion comprising the adaptive code book 62, the gain unit 64, the linear prediction synthesis filter 66, the subtracter 70, and the error power evaluation unit 68 outputs a transmission parameter effective for periodic voice. P indicates an adaptive code vector output from the adaptive code book, b indicates a gain in the gain unit 64, and A indicates the transmission characteristic of the
10 linear prediction synthesis filter 66.
15

The coding process performed by this portion is based on the same principle as the coding process performed by the code book 51, the gain unit 52, the linear prediction synthesis filter 53, the subtracter
20 54, and the error power evaluation unit 55. However, a sample in the adaptive code book 62 adaptively changes by the feedback of a previous excitation signal. The decoder performs a process similar to the process performed by the decoding process by the code
25 book 51, the gain unit 52, and the linear prediction

synthesis filter 53 described above by referring to FIG. 1. However, in this case, a sample in the adaptive code book 62 also changes adaptively by the feedback of a previous excitation signal.

5 On the other hand, the portion comprising the fixed code book 61, the gain unit 63, the linear prediction synthesis filter 65, the subtracter 69, and the error power evaluation unit 67 outputs a transmission parameter effective for the noisy signal
10 X' output by the subtracter 70 subtracting the optimum reproduced signal bAP output by the linear prediction synthesis filter 66 from the input signal X. The coding process by this portion is based on the same principle as the coding process by the code book 51,
15 the gain unit 52, the linear prediction synthesis filter 53, the subtracter 54, and the error power evaluation unit 55. In this case, the fixed code book 61 preliminarily stores a fixed sample. The decoder performs a process similar to the process performed
20 by the decoding process by the code book 51, the gain unit 52, and the linear prediction synthesis filter 53 described above by referring to FIG. 1.

 The fixed code book 61 preliminarily stores a random code vector C corresponding to a fixed sample
25 value. Therefore, for example, assuming that a vector

dimension length is 40 (corresponding to the number of samples in the period of 5 msec (milliseconds) when the sampling frequency is 8 kHz), and that the number of vector:code book size is 1024, the fixed code book
 5 61 requires the memory capacity of 40 k (kilo) words.

That is, a large memory capacity is required by the fixed code book 61 to independently store all sample values. This is a big problem to be solved when the CELP voice codec is realized.

10 To solve this problem, an ACELP (Algebraic Code Excited Linear Prediction) system has been suggested to successfully perform the code book searching process in an algebraic method by arranging a small number of non-zero sample values at fixed positions
 15 (refer to J. P. Adoul et al. 'Fast CELP coding based on algebraic codes' Proc. IEEE International conference on acoustics speech and signal processing, pp. 1957 - 1960 (April, 1987)).

FIG. 3 shows the configuration of the
 20 conventional ACELP system using an algebraic code book. An algebraic code book 71 corresponds to the fixed code book 61 shown in FIG. 2, a gain unit 72 corresponds to the gain unit 63 shown in FIG. 2, a linear prediction synthesis filter 73 corresponds to
 25 the linear prediction synthesis filter 65 shown in

FIG. 2, a subtracter 74 corresponds to the subtracter 69 shown in FIG. 2, and an error power evaluation unit 75 corresponds to the error power evaluation unit 67 shown in FIG. 2. In the A-b-S process shown in FIG. 3, as in the processes described by referring to FIG. 1 or 2, an A-b-S process is performed using the code vector C_i generated from the algebraic code book 71 corresponding to an index i , and a gain g .

In this ACELP system, the required amount of operations and memory can be considerably reduced by limiting the amplitude value and position of a non-zero sample. At this time, for example, as shown in FIG. 4, the N-dimensional M-size algebraic code book 71 storing code vectors C_0, C_1, \dots, C_{n-1} is provided. However, since the number of non-zero samples in a frame is fixed and the non-zero samples are arranged at equal intervals, each of the code vectors C_0, C_1, \dots, C_{n-1} can be generated in an algebraic method. In the example shown in FIG. 4, the sample position of each of the four non-zero samples i_0, i_1, i_2 , and i_3 is standardized, and the amplitude value is ± 1.0 . The amplitude of the sample position other than the four sample positions is assumed to be zero.

As shown on the right of the algebraic code book 71 shown in FIG. 4, the sample value pattern of the

code vector corresponding to i_0 , i_1 , i_2 , and i_3 depends on the sample positions i_0 , i_1 , i_2 , and i_3 within the amplitude of ± 1 excluding the sample position having the amplitude of zero, for example, the pattern
 5 corresponding to the code vector C_0 (0, ..., 0, +1, 0, ..., 0, -1, 0, ..., 0, +1, 0, ..., 0, -1, 0, ...). That is, for the code vector having, as elements, a total of N samples of four non-zero samples and $N - 4$ zero samples, each of the four non-zero samples i_n ($n = 0, 1, 2, 3$) can be expressed by a total of $K + 1$ bits, that is, 1 bit for amplitude information (the absolute value of the amplitude is fixed to 1, and indicates only the polarity), and K bits for the position information m_n specifying one of 2^K candidates.

15 The position of a non-zero sample is standardized by the G.729 or G.723.1 of the ITU-T (International Telecommunication Union-Telecommunication Standardization Sector).

For example, in the table 77 shown in FIG. 4
 20 corresponding to the standard G.729, each position information m_0 through m_2 about non-zero samples i_0 through i_2 in 40 samples corresponding to 1 frame has candidates at 8 positions. One position can be specified by 3 bits. The position information m_3
 25 about a non-zero sample i_3 has candidates at 16

positions, and can be expressed by 4 bits to specify one of the positions. Each piece of the amplitude information s_0 through s_3 about the non-zero samples i_0 through i_3 can be expressed by 1 bit because the absolute value of each amplitude is fixed to 1.0, and the polarity is represented. Therefore, in G.729, the non-zero samples i_0 through i_3 can be formed by 17-bit data comprising the amplitude information s_0 through s_3 each being formed by 1 bit and the position information m_0 through m_3 each being formed by 3 or 4 bits as shown by 76 in FIG. 4.

In the table 78 shown in FIG. 4 corresponding to the standard 723.1, each position candidate of the non-zero samples i_0 through i_3 is determined such that the position is assigned to every second sample in the non-zero samples. Thus, each piece of the position information m_0 through m_3 about the non-zero samples i_0 through i_3 can be expressed by 3 bits. As in the standard G.729, each piece of the amplitude information s_0 through s_3 about the non-zero samples i_0 through i_3 can be expressed by 1 bit. As described above, in G.723.1, the non-zero samples i_0 through i_3 can be formed by 16-bit data comprising the amplitude information s_0 through s_3 each being formed by 1 bit and the position information m_0 through m_3 each being

formed by 3 bits as shown by 76 in FIG. 4.

For example, when the i -th coded word has the value s_n^i, m_n^i (where $n = 0, 1, 2, 3$), the coded word sample $c^i(n)$ can be defined by the following equation.

$$c^i(n) = s_0^i \delta(n - m_1^i) + s_1^i \delta(n - m_1^i) + s_2^i \delta(n - m_2^i) + s_3^i \delta(n - m_3^i) \quad (1)$$

where s_n^i indicates the amplitude information about a non-zero sample, and m_n^i indicates the position information about a non-zero sample. In addition, $\delta()$ indicates a delta function, and the following equations exist.

$$\delta(n) = 1 \quad \text{for } n = 0$$

$$\delta(n) = 0 \quad \text{for } n \neq 0$$

In addition, the error power E^2 can be expressed by the following equation using the input signal shown in FIG. 3, the gain g , the code vector C_i , and the matrix H of the impulse response of the linear prediction synthesis filter 73.

$$E^2 = (X - gHC_i)^2 \quad \dots \quad 2$$

The evaluation function $\text{argmax}(F_i)$ for obtaining the minimum error power E^2 can be expressed by the following equation.

$$\text{argmax} (F_i) = [(X^T H C_i)^2 / \{(H C_i)^T (H C_i)\}] \dots\dots 3$$

where assuming that:

$$X^T H = D = d(i) \dots\dots 4, \text{ and}$$

$$H^T H = \Phi = \phi(i, j) \dots\dots 5$$

5 the evaluation function $\text{argmax}(f_i)$ expressed by the equation 3 can be expressed by the following equation.

$$\text{argmax} (F_i) = [(D^T C_i)^2 / \{(C_i)^T \Phi C_i\}] \dots\dots 6$$

10 where the characters in the upper case indicate vectors.

Since the above described equations 4 and 5 contain no elements of the code vector C_i , an arithmetic operation can be preliminarily performed even when the number M of patterns (size) of a coded word is large. Therefore, a higher-speed operation can be performed by the equation 6 than by the equation 3.

20 The process relating to the code vector C_i is performed on four samples having the amplitude of ± 1.0 as described above. Accordingly, the denominator and the numerator of the equation 6 can be respectively obtained by the following equations 7 and 8.

$$(D^T C_i)^2 = \{ \sum_{i=0}^3 s_i d(m_i) \}^2 \quad (7)$$

$$(C_i)^T \Phi C_i = \sum_{i=0}^3 \Phi(m_i, m_i) + 2 \sum_{i=0}^2 \sum_{j=i+1}^3 s_i s_j \Phi(m_i, m_j) \quad (8)$$

where $\sum_{i=0}^3$ indicates the accumulation from $i=0$ through $i=3$.

- 5 The amount of operations by the equations 7 and 8 does not depend on the parameter (number of dimensions) N , and is small. Therefore, even if operations are performed the number of times corresponding to the number M of coded word patterns,
- 10 the amount of the operations is not large. Therefore, with the configuration using the algebraic code book 71 shown in FIG. 3, the amount of operations can be reduced much more than with the configuration using the fixed code book 61 shown in FIG. 2. In addition,
- 15 each code vector output from the algebraic code book 71 can be generated in an algebraic method according to the amplitude information (polarity information) and the position information. As a result, it is not

necessary to store each code vector in the memory, thereby considerably reducing the requirements of the memory.

In the above described ACELP system, the requirements of the memory and the amount of operations can be successfully reduced. However, since the number of non-zero samples in a frame is fixed to four, and the restrictions are placed such that the positions of samples can be set at equal intervals, there is the problem that a bit rate representing the code vector index is determined according to two parameters, that is, the frame length parameter and the non-zero sample number parameter, thereby requiring a comparatively large number of bits to express a code vector index.

For example, when one frame contains 40 samples according to the standard G.729 of the ITU-T, a total of 17 bits are used as a code vector index as shown in the table 77 shown in FIG. 4. The number of the bits corresponds to 42% of the total transmission capacity (8 kbits/sec, 80 bits/10 msec) prescribed by G.729.

If one frame contains 80 samples, the number of bits required to express the position information about a non-zero sample is larger by one than in the

above described case. Therefore, a total of 21 bits are used as a code vector index. The number of bits corresponds to 62.5% of the total transmission capacity prescribed by G.729, and is much larger than
5 in one frame containing 40 samples.

Normally, to realize a very low bit rate voice CODEC at about 4 kbits/sec, a frame length should be extended. However, when the above described conventional ACELP system is applied to this
10 requirement, there arises the problem of a considerable increase of the transmission bit rate of a code vector index. That is, the conventional ACELP system has the problem that it interrupts a demand to lower a bit rate by decreasing the number of parameter
15 transmission bits per unit time through higher transmission efficiency.

In addition to this problem, the conventional ACELP system also has the problem that the ability to identify a pitch period shorter than a frame length
20 is lowered when the frame length is extended.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention has been developed based on the above described background, and aims at setting
25 a constant transmission amount of a code vector index

and maintaining the identifying ability for a pitch period in a voice coding/decoding system based on the A-b-S vector quantization using a sound source coded word formed only by non-zero amplitude values.

5 The present invention relates to a voice coding technology based on the analysis-by-synthesis vector quantization using a code book in which sound source code vector are formed only by non-zero amplitude values, and variably controls the sample position of
10 a non-zero amplitude value using an index and a transmission parameter indicating a feature amount of voice. In this case, a lag value corresponding to a pitch period can be used as a transmission parameter. Furthermore, a pitch gain value can also be used.
15 Corresponding to a lag value or a pitch gain value, the sample position of a non-zero amplitude value can be redesigned within a period corresponding to the lag value.

20 With the above described configuration, the position of a non-zero sample output from a code book in the A-b-S vector quantization can be changed and controlled using an index and a transmission parameter indicating the feature amount of voice such as a lag value, a pitch gain, etc. As a result, according to
25 the present invention, it is not necessary to increase

the number of necessary transmission bits even when a frame length is extended, thereby successfully avoiding the deterioration of the transmission efficiency.

5 In addition, the present invention has the merit that the pitch periodicity can be easily reserved with a pitch emphasizing process, etc even in a longer frame.

10 **Brief Description of the Drawings**

Other objects and features of the present invention can be easily understood by one of ordinary skill in the art from the descriptions of preferred embodiments by referring to the attached drawings in
15 which:

FIG. 1 shows the conventional A-b-S vector quantization;

FIG. 2 shows the conventional CELP system;

FIG. 3 shows the configuration according to the
20 conventional ACELP system;

FIG. 4 shows the outline of the ACELP system;

FIG. 5 shows the principle of the present invention (coding search process);

FIG. 6 shows the principle of the present
25 invention (regenerating process on the decoding side);

FIG. 7 shows the first preferred embodiment according to the present invention (coding search process);

FIG. 8 shows the first preferred embodiment according to the present invention (regenerating process on the decoding side);

FIG. 9 is a flowchart of the first preferred embodiment according to the present invention;

FIGS. 10A through 10C show the configuration-variable code book using a lag value according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 11 shows the non-zero sample position corresponding to a lag value according to the preferred embodiment of the present invention;

FIG. 12 shows the pitch emphasizing process;

FIG. 13 shows the second preferred embodiment according to the present invention (coding search process);

FIG. 14 shows the second preferred embodiment according to the present invention (regenerating process on the decoding side);

FIG. 15 is a flowchart according to the second preferred embodiment of the present invention; and

FIGS. 16A through 16C show waveform examples of each signal.

Description of the preferred embodiments

The preferred embodiment of the present invention are described below by referring to the attached drawings.

5 FIGS. 5 and 6 show the principle of the present invention. 1 and 1' are configuration variable code books, 2 and 2' are gain units, 3 and 3' are linear prediction synthesis filters, 4 is a subtracter, 5 is an error power evaluation unit.

10 The configuration variable code books 1 and 1' correspond to an algebraic code book for outputting a code vector comprising, for example, a plurality of non-zero samples, and has the function of reconstructing itself by controlling the position of
15 non-zero samples based on an index i and a transmission parameter p such as a pitch period (lag value), etc. At this time, the configuration variable code books 1 and 1' variably control the position of
20 non-zero samples. Thus, the number of necessary bits for transmission of a code vector index can be prevented from increasing.

 In the coder with the principle configuration according to the present invention shown in FIG. 5,
25 after the position of a non-zero sample is controlled

according to an index i and a transmission parameter p , the gain unit 2 first scales the code vector C_i output from the configuration variable code book 1 by the gain g . Then, the linear prediction synthesis
5 filter 3 inputs the above described scaled code vector, and outputs a reproduced signal gAC_i . Then, the subtracter 4 subtracts the above described reproduced signal gAC_i from the input signal X , and outputs the difference between them as an error signal E . Next,
10 the error power evaluation unit 5 computes error power according to an error signal E . The above described process is performed on all code vectors C_i output from the configuration variable code book 1, and plural types of gains g , computes the index i of the
15 code vector C_i and the gain g with which the above described error power is the smallest, and they are transmitted to the decoder.

In the decoder with the principle configuration according to the present invention shown in FIG. 6,
20 a parameter separation unit 6 separates each parameter from received data transmitted from the coder. Then, the configuration variable code book 1' outputs a code vector C_i according to the index i and the transmission parameter p in the above described
25 separated parameters. Next, the gain unit 2' scales

the above described code vector C_i by the gain g separated by the parameter separation unit 6. Then, the linear prediction synthesis filter 3' inputs the scaled code vector, and outputs the decoded regenerated signal gAC . A linear prediction parameter, not shown in FIG.6, is provided for the linear prediction synthesis filter 3' by the parameter separation unit 6.

Various transmission parameters p in the configuration shown in FIGS. 5 and 6 can be selected corresponding to the characteristics of a voice signal. For example, a pitch period (lag value), a gain, etc. can be adopted.

FIGS. 7 and 8 shows the first embodiment according to the principle configuration shown in FIGS. 5 and 6. 11 and 11' are configuration variable code books, 12 and 12' are gain units, 13 and 13' are linear prediction synthesis filters, 14 is a subtracter, 15 is an error power evaluation unit, 16 is a non-zero sample position control unit, 17 is a pitch emphasis filter, and 18 is a parameter separation unit.

As shown at the middle and lower parts in FIG. 7 (and in FIG. 8), the configuration variable code books 11 and 11' comprise a non-zero sample position

control unit 16 for inputting an index i and a pitch period (lag value) 1 which is a transmission parameter; and a pitch emphasis filter 17 for inputting an output signal of the non-zero sample position control unit 16 and a pitch period (lag value) 1. The non-zero sample position control unit 16 does not change the number of non-zero samples, but variably controls the position of a non-zero sample based on the pitch period (lag value) 1. The pitch emphasis filter 17 is a feedback filter for synthesizing a sample longer than the length corresponding to a lag value from a previous lag value when the lag value is shorter than the length of a frame.

The function of each unit shown in FIGS. 7 and 8 can also be realized by operation elements such as a DSP (digital signal processor), etc.

In the conventional ACELP system, non-zero samples have been assigned such that they can be stored in the entire range of a frame depending on the frame length. However, when a lag value corresponding to the pitch period is smaller than the length of a frame, a sample longer than the length corresponding to the lag value can be designed to be synthesized from a previous lag value using a feedback filter.

In this case, it is wasteful to assign non-zero samples in a range larger than one corresponding to the lag value in a frame.

According to the present embodiment, the non-zero
 5 sample position control unit 16 assigns a non-zero sample within a pitch period, that is the range of the lag value. Simultaneously, when the lag value exceeds the value corresponding to a half of the frame length, the non-zero sample position control unit 16 removes
 10 some of the non-zero samples, assigned to the last half having a smaller influence of the feedback process by the pitch emphasis filter 17, in the non-zero samples assigned in a pitch periode, and variably controls the positions of the non-zero samples. Thus,
 15 even if the lag value and the frame length change, the constant number of non-zero samples can be maintained, thereby preventing the number of necessary bits in atransmitting code vector index from increasing.

First, the entire operation of the configuration
 20 according to the first embodiment shown in FIGS. 7 and 8 is the same as the operation of the principle configuration shown in FIGS. 5 and 6.

FIG. 9 is a flowchart of the operations process
 performed by the non-zero sample position control unit
 25 16 designed in the configuration variable code books

11 and 11' shown in FIGS. 7 and 8. In the example described below, one frame contains 80 samples (8 kHz sampling), the number of non-zero samples is 4, the lag value equals 20 samples (400 Hz) through 147 samples (54.4 Hz), and the index transmission bit equals 17 bits.

First, the position of a non-zero sample is initialized (step A1 in FIG. 9). In this step, non-zero sample positions $i = 0$ through 39 are set at equal intervals for the array data `sm_pos [i]` ($0 \leq i < 40$) containing 40 elements.

Then, a lag value corresponding to an input pitch period is determined. The lag value is not shown in FIG. 7 or 8, but can be computed in the A-b-S process (corresponding to the configuration at the upper part of FIG. 2), to be performed before the ACELP process, using an adaptive code book.

First, it is determined whether or not the lag value is smaller than the first set value of 40 (step A2 in FIG. 9). If the determination is YES, then the process in step A6 shown in FIG. 9 is performed, and each non-zero sample position is entered.

As a result, when the lag value corresponding to the pitch period is equal to or smaller than 40, then the position of a non-zero sample is determined as

shown in FIG. 10A. The arrangement is the same as that shown on table 77 in FIG. 4 corresponding to the above described ITU-T standard G.729.

On the other hand, when the determination in step A2 shown in FIG. 9 is NO, it is determined whether or not the second set value of lag value is equal to or larger than 80 (step A3 in FIG. 9). If the determination is NO, the contents of the array data `smp_pos []` are sequentially changed in the for loop process in the process of controlling the position of a non-zero sample in step A5 shown in FIG. 9. Then, using the changed array data, the process of entering the position of the non-zero sample in step A6 is performed.

As a result, when the lag value corresponding to a pitch period is larger than 40 and smaller than 80, for example, when it is 45, the position of a non-zero sample is determined as shown in FIG. 10B. As shown in FIG. 11, the arrangement is obtained by adding the sample positions 40, 42, and 44 replacing the sample positions 35, 37, and 39 in the arrangement shown in the table in FIG. 10A.

Practically, if the lag value is, for example, 45, $i = 0$, $ix = 40$, and $iy = 0$ as initial values, and $(lag - 41) / 2 + 1 = 3$, then three sample positions

are position-controlled. That is, the operation of $\text{smp_pos}[39 - iy] = ix$ is performed using $ix = 40$ and $iy = 0$. In the sample position data $\text{smp_pos}[39]$, the sample position 40 replaces the sample position 39.

5 Then, $ix = 42$ and $iy = 2$ are obtained using $ix += 2$ and $iy += 2$, the sample position 42 replaces the sample position 37 in the sample position data $\text{smp_pos}[37]$. Furthermore, using the values $ix = 44$ and $iy = 4$, the sample position 44 replaces the sample position 35 in the sample position data $\text{smp_pos}[35]$.

10 As described above, when the lag value corresponding to the pitch period is larger than 40 and smaller than 80 according to the present embodiment, the sample positions are removed by the number of samples corresponding to the increase from
15 the lag value of 40 so that the positions are reconstructed within the range of the lag value, thereby reconstructing the positions without changing the number of non-zero samples.

20 When the determination in step A3 shown in FIG. 9 is YES, the clipping process in step A4 shown in FIG. 9 is performed. That is, when the lag value exceeds 80 corresponding to the frame length, it is insignificant to assign a non-zero sample outside the
25 range of the frame length. Therefore, when the lag

value is clipped at 80, the process of controlling the positions of non-zero samples in step A5 shown in FIG. 9, and the subsequent process of entering the positions of non-zero samples in step A6 are performed. As a result, the positions of non-zero samples are determined as shown in FIG. 10C.

In the above described control process, the positions of non-zero samples are reconstructed corresponding to the lag value even when the lag value increases. Therefore, it is possible to maintain the number of bits of 17 to be transmitted for a code vector index without changing the number of non-zero samples.

FIG. 12 shows the pitch emphasis process performed by the pitch emphasis filter 17 forming parts of the configuration variable code books 11 and 11' shown in FIGS. 7 and 8. 31 and 34 are coefficient units, 32 is an adder, and 33 is a delay circuit.

In FIG. 12, the transmission function of the configuration including the coefficient units 31 and 34, the adder 32, and the delay circuit 33 can be expressed by $P(z) = \alpha / (1 - \beta z^{-lag})$. α is the coefficient of the coefficient unit 31, β is the coefficient of the coefficient unit 34, lag indicates a lag value. For example, the coefficient α of the

coefficient unit 31 is $\alpha = 1.0$ in the range of 0 through (lag - 1), and $\alpha = 0.0$ in the range of lag through 79. The coefficient β of the coefficient unit 34 is 1.0. The coefficients α and β are not limited to these values, but can be set to other values.

With the above described circuit configuration, when the lag value is smaller than the frame length, a sample having the length larger than the value corresponding to the lag value in the frame is fed back from the previous lag value and synthesized. As a result, a sequence can be generated in synchronization with the pitch period, while maintaining the representability of pitch periodicity.

FIGS. 13 and 14 show the second embodiment of the present invention based on the principle configuration shown in FIGS. 5 and 6. 21 and 21' are configuration variable code books, 22 and 22' are gain units, 23 and 23' are linear prediction synthesis filter 23, 24 is a subtracter, 25 is an error power evaluation unit, 26 is a non-zero sample position control unit, 27 is a pitch synchronization filter, and 28 is a parameter separation unit.

The entire operation of the configuration according to the second embodiment shown in FIGS. 13 and 14 is the same as the operation according to the

principle configuration described by referring to FIGS. 5 and 6.

5 The configuration variable code books 21 and 21' comprise the non-zero sample position control unit 26 and the pitch synchronization filter 27 as with the configuration variable code books 11 and 11' (shown in FIGS. 7 and 8) corresponding to the first embodiment of the present invention. The configuration according to the second embodiment is different from the first embodiment in that the non-zero sample position control unit 26 and the pitch synchronization filter 27 input a pitch gain G in addition to the lag value l corresponding to the pitch period as a transmission parameter.

10 15 As a lag value corresponding to the pitch period computed in the A-b-S process (corresponding to the upper half of the configuration shown in FIG. 2) using an adaptive code book, the most probable value in the search range is selected even when input voice has no definite pitch period. Therefore, in the region of an unvoiced sound or a background sound for which a noisy sound source is appropriate, a pseudo-pitch period is extracted, and the information about the pitch period is transmitted from the coder to the decoder. In this case, a big pitch gain G indicates

20 25

a storing pitch periodicity, and a small pitch gain G indicates a weak pitch periodicity such as an unvoiced sound, a background sound, etc. According to the second embodiment of the present invention, a
5 pitch gain G is adopted as one of the transmission parameters.

FIG. 15 is a flowchart of the operating process performed by the non-zero sample position control unit 26 in the configuration variable code books 21 and 21' shown in FIGS. 13 and 14. In this flowchart, the
10 control processes in steps B1, B3, B4, B7, B5, and B6 are the same as the processes in steps A1, A2, A3, A4, A5, and A6 in the flowchart shown in FIG. 9 corresponding to the first embodiment of the present
15 invention.

The second embodiment is different from the first embodiment in the process performed when the pitch gain G is smaller than a predetermined threshold. That is, in step B2 shown in FIG. 15, it is determined
20 whether or not the pitch gain G is smaller than the threshold. If the determination is YES, then the setting of a pitch period is insignificant, and therefore, the lag value is clipped at 80, which equals the frame length, and the same process as in
25 the first embodiment is performed.

In the above described control process, the characteristics of the present embodiment can be furthermore improved.

FIGS. 16A through 16C show input voice X
5 (corresponding to the X shown in FIGS. 16A and 2),
noisy input signal X' (corresponding to the X' shown
in FIGS. 16B, 5, etc.) to the present embodiment, and
an example of each waveform (FIG. 16C) from the
configuration variable code book (1 shown in FIG. 5,
10 etc.) of the present invention.

The embodiments of the present invention are
described above, but the present invention is not
limited only to the described embodiments, but
additions and amendments can be made to them. For
15 example, the frame length, the number of samples, etc.
can be optionally selected corresponding to an
applicable system. In addition, a transmission
parameter corresponding to, for example, the format
of a vowel can be used. Furthermore, the present
20 invention can be applied not only to the ACELP system,
but also to a voice coding system in which a plurality
of non-zero samples are used and the positions of the
non-zero samples are controlled using a transmission
parameter.

What is claimed is:

1. A voice coding method based on analysis-by-synthesis vector quantization using a code book
5 containing a voice source code vector having only a plurality of non-zero amplitude values, comprising the step of

variably controlling a position of a sample of
the non-zero amplitude value using an index and a
10 transmission parameter indicating a feature amount of voice.

2. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of

15 variably controlling the position of the sample of the non-zero amplitude value using the index and a lag value corresponding to a pitch period which is a transmission parameter indicating the feature amount of voice.

- 20 3. The method according to claim 2, further comprising the step of

reconstructing the position of the sample of the non-zero amplitude value within a region corresponding
25 to the lag value depending on a relationship between

the lag value and a frame length which is a coding unit of the voice.

4. The method according to claim 1, further comprising the step of

5 variably controlling the position of the sample
of the non-zero amplitude value using the index and
a lag value corresponding to a pitch period which is
a transmission parameter indicating the feature amount
10 of voice and a pitch gain value.

5. The method according to claim 4, further comprising the step of

15 reconstructing the position of the sample of the
non-zero amplitude value within a region corresponding
to the lag value depending on a relationship between
the lag value and a frame length which is a coding
unit of the voice.

- 20 6. The method according to claim 5, further comprising the step of

 reconstructing the position of the sample of the
non-zero amplitude value within a region corresponding
to the lag value depending on the pitch gain value.

7. A voice decoding method for decoding a voice signal coded by a voice coding method based on analysis-by-synthesis vector quantization using a code book containing a voice source code vector having only a plurality of non-zero amplitude values, comprising the step of

variably controlling a position of a sample of the non-zero amplitude value using an index and a transmission parameter indicating a feature amount of voice.

8. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of

variably controlling the position of the sample of the non-zero amplitude value using the index and a lag value corresponding to a pitch period which is a transmission parameter indicating the feature amount of voice.

9. The method according to claim 8, further comprising the step of

reconstructing the position of the sample of the non-zero amplitude value within a region corresponding to the lag value depending on a relationship between the lag value and a frame length which is a coding

unit of the voice.

10. The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of

5 variably controlling the position of the sample of the non-zero amplitude value using the index and a lag value corresponding to a pitch period which is a transmission parameter indicating the feature amount of voice and a pitch gain value.

10

11. The method according to claim 10, further comprising the step of

 reconstructing the position of the sample of the non-zero amplitude value within a region corresponding to the lag value depending on a relationship between the lag value and a frame length which is a coding unit of the voice.

15

12. The method according to claim 11, further comprising the step of

 reconstructing the position of the sample of the non-zero amplitude value within a region corresponding to the lag value depending on the pitch gain value.

20

25 13. A voice coding apparatus based on analysis-by-

synthesis vector quantization using a code book containing a voice source code vector having only a plurality of non-zero amplitude values, comprising

5 a configuration variable code book unit variably controlling a position of a sample of the non-zero amplitude value using an index and a transmission parameter indicating a feature amount of voice.

14. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein
10 said configuration variable code book unit variably controls the position of the sample of the non-zero amplitude value using the index and a lag value corresponding to a pitch period which is a transmission parameter indicating the feature amount
15 of voice.

15. The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein
said configuration variable code book unit
20 variably controls the position of the sample of the non-zero amplitude value using the index and a lag value corresponding to a pitch period which is a transmission parameter indicating the feature amount of voice and a pitch gain value.

25 16. A voice decoding apparatus for decoding a voice

signal coded by a voice coding apparatus based on analysis-by-synthesis vector quantization using a code book containing a voice source code vector having only a plurality of non-zero amplitude values, comprising

5 a configuration variable code book unit variably controlling a position of a sample of the non-zero amplitude value using an index and a transmission parameter indicating a feature amount of voice.

10 17. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein
 said configuration variable code book unit variably controls the position of the sample of the non-zero amplitude value using the index and a lag value corresponding to a pitch period which is a
15 transmission parameter indicating the feature amount of voice.

 18. The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein
 said configuration variable code book unit
20 variably controls the position of the sample of the non-zero amplitude value using the index and a lag value corresponding to a pitch period which is a transmission parameter indicating the feature amount of voice and a pitch gain value.

Abstract of the Disclosure

A gain unit scales a code vector C_i output from a configuration variable code book by a gain g after the positions of non-zero samples are controlled according to an index and transmission parameter p . A linear prediction synthesis filter input the multiplication result, and outputs a regenerated signal gAC_i . A subtracter outputs an error signal E by subtracting the regenerated signal gAC_i from an input signal X . A error power evaluation unit computes an error power according to an error signal E . The above described processes are performed on all code vectors C_i and gains g . The index i of the code vector C_i and the gain g with which the error power is the smallest are computed and transmitted to the decoder.

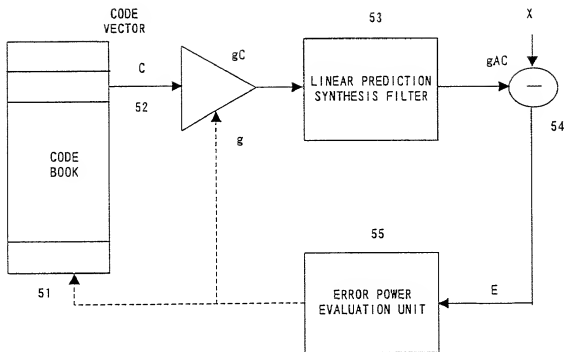


FIG. 1

PRIOR ART

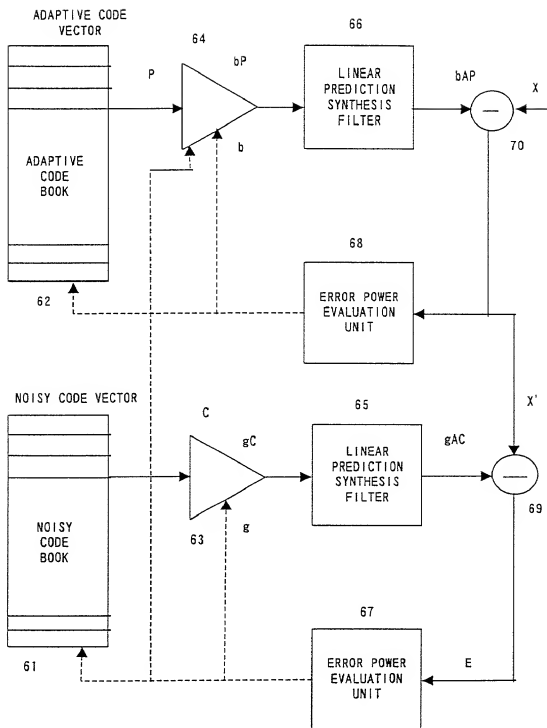


FIG. 2 PRIOR ART

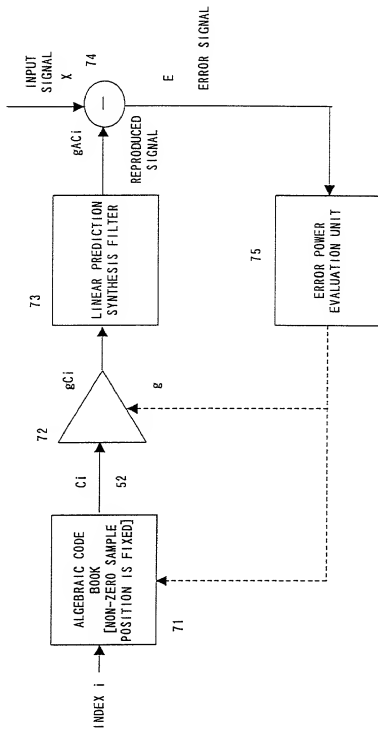
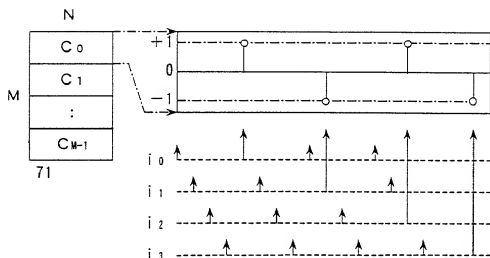


FIG. 3 PRIOR ART



76

s_0	s_1	s_2	s_3	m_0	m_1	m_2	m_3
-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------	-------

77 CODE POSITION NUMBER OF BITS

i_0	s_0	m_0	0, 5, 10, 15, 20, 25, 30, 35	3
i_1	s_1	m_1	1, 6, 11, 16, 21, 26, 31, 36	3
i_2	s_2	m_2	2, 7, 12, 17, 22, 27, 32, 37	3
i_3	s_3	m_3	3, 8, 13, 18, 23, 28, 33, 38 4, 9, 14, 19, 24, 29, 34, 39	4

TOTAL 17 BITS

78 CODE POSITION NUMBER OF BITS

i_0	s_0	m_0	0, 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56	3
i_1	s_1	m_1	2, 10, 18, 26, 34, 42, 50, 58	3
i_2	s_2	m_2	4, 12, 20, 28, 36, 44, 52, (60)	3
i_3	s_3	m_3	6, 14, 22, 30, 38, 46, 54, (62)	3

TOTAL 16 BITS

FIG. 4 PRIOR ART

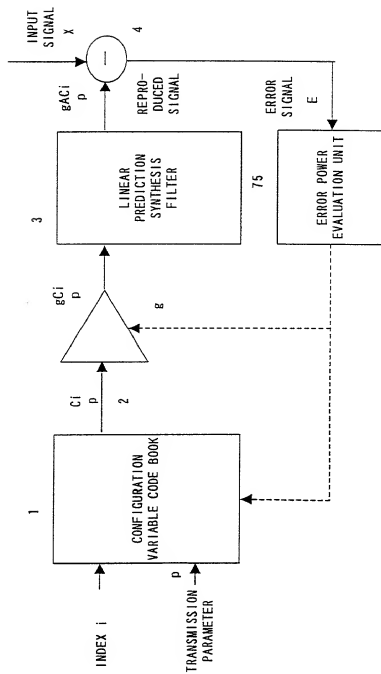


FIG. 5

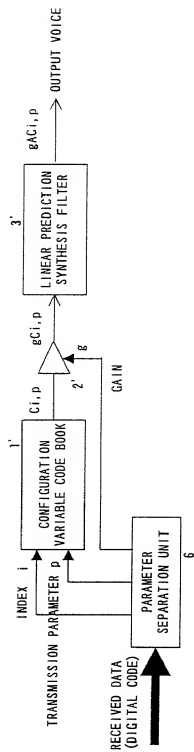


FIG. 6

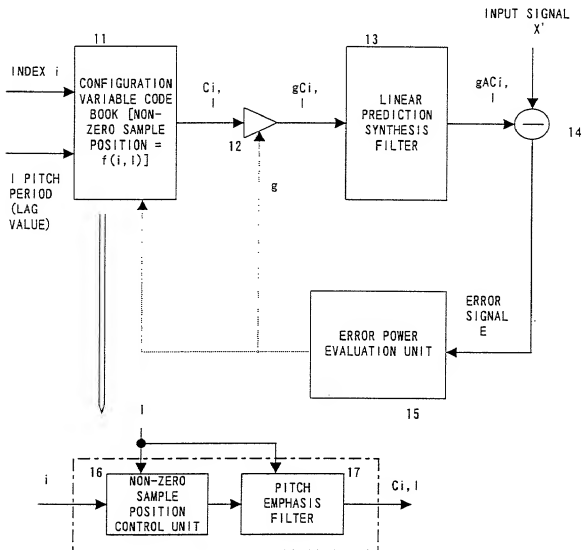


FIG. 7

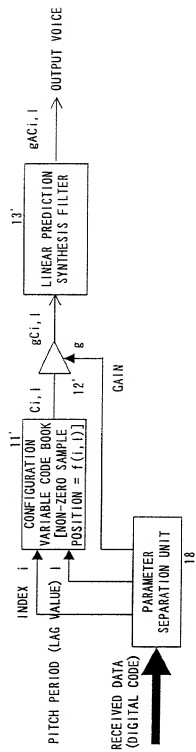


FIG. 8

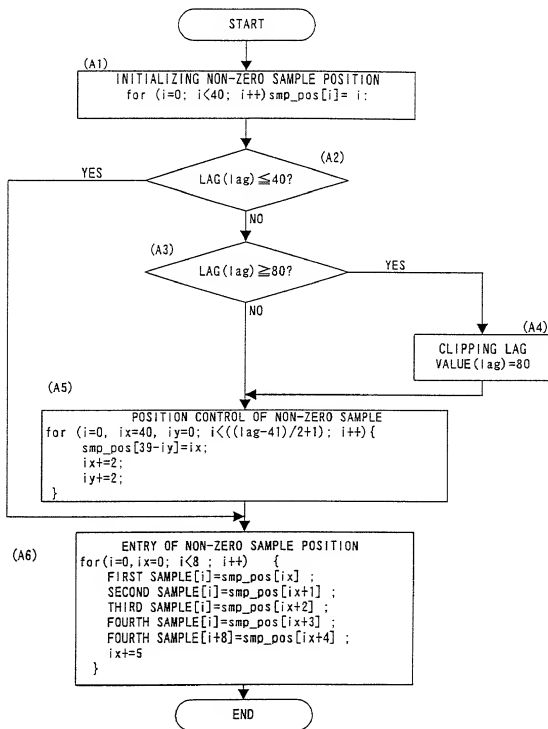


FIG. 9

$20 \leq \text{LAG VALUE} \leq 40$

FIG. 10A

	NON-ZERO SAMPLE POSITION							
i_0	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	35
i_1	1	6	11	16	21	26	31	36
i_2	2	7	12	17	22	27	32	37
i_3	3	8	13	18	23	28	33	38
	4	9	14	19	24	29	34	39

$40 < \text{LAG VALUE} < 80$ (WHEN LAG VALUE=45)

FIG. 10B

	NON-ZERO SAMPLE POSITION							
i_0	0	5	10	15	20	25	30	44
i_1	1	6	11	16	21	26	31	36
i_2	2	7	12	17	22	27	32	42
i_3	3	8	13	18	23	28	33	38
	4	9	14	19	24	29	34	40

$80 \leq \text{LAG VALUE}$

FIG. 10C

	NON-ZERO SAMPLE POSITION							
i_0	0	74	10	64	20	54	30	44
i_1	78	6	68	16	58	26	48	36
i_2	2	72	12	62	22	52	32	42
i_3	76	8	66	18	56	28	46	38
	4	70	14	60	24	50	34	40

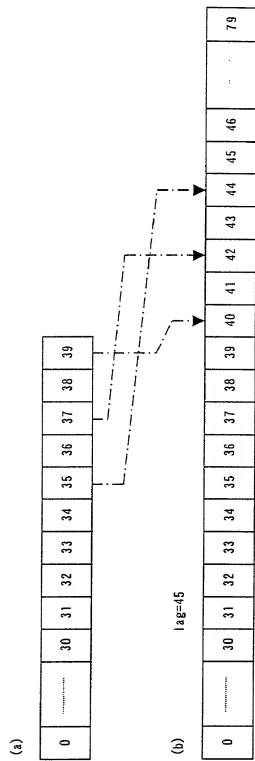


FIG. 11

TRANSMISSION FUNCTION $P(z) = \alpha / (1 - \beta z^{-1+\epsilon})$

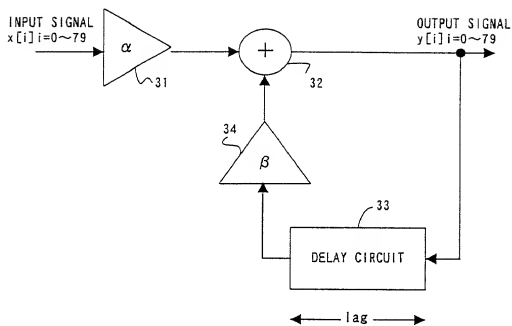


FIG. 12

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a speech synthesis system. The system includes an input signal X' , a reproduced signal, an error signal E , and an error power evaluation unit 25. The reproduced signal is calculated as X' minus the error signal E . The error signal E is the difference between the input signal X' and the reproduced signal. The error power evaluation unit 25 receives the error signal E and outputs a gain factor g . The gain factor g is used to calculate the reproduced signal as $g \cdot C(i, G, I)$. The reproduced signal is then fed back into the error signal calculation. The system also includes a non-zero sample position control unit 26 and a pitch emphasis filter 27. The non-zero sample position control unit 26 receives the input signal X' and outputs a signal i . The pitch emphasis filter 27 receives the signal i and outputs a signal Ci, I, GT . The signal Ci, I, GT is used to calculate the reproduced signal as $g \cdot Ci, I, GT$. The signal Ci, I, GT is also used to calculate the error signal E as $X' - g \cdot Ci, I, GT$.

FIG. 13

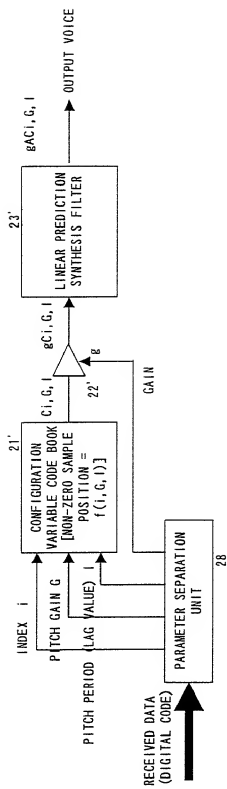


FIG. 14

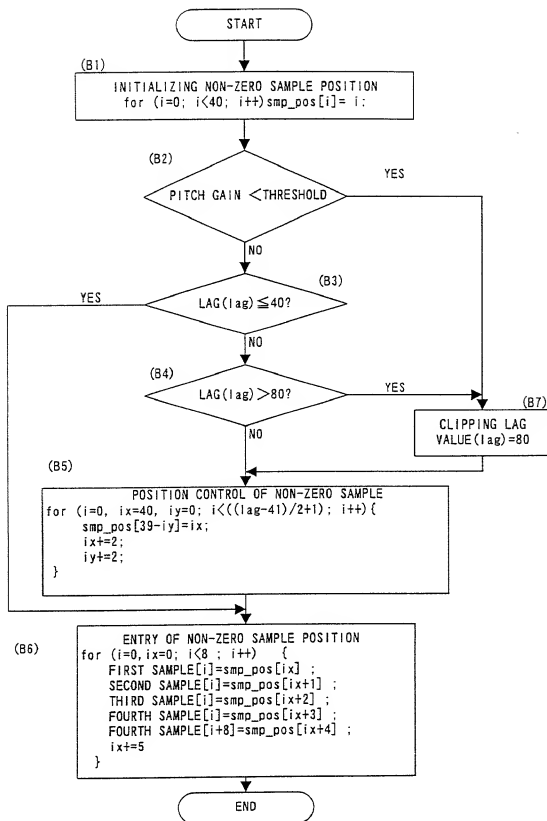


FIG. 15

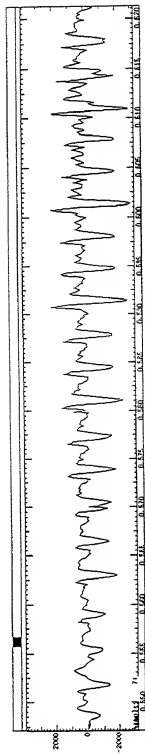


FIG. 16A INPUT VOICE

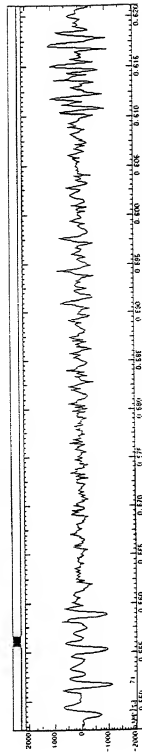


FIG. 16B NOISE CODE BOOK INPUT SIGNAL X
(INPUT VOICE - APPLICABLE CODE BOOK OUTPUT)

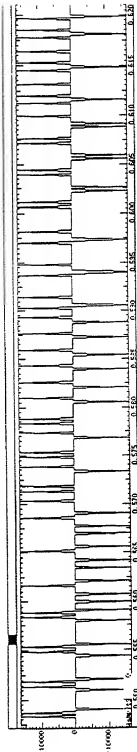


FIG. 16C CODE BOOK OUTPUT SIGNAL OF THE
PRESENT INVENTION

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Declaration and Power of Attorney For Patent Application

特許出願宣言書及び委任状

Japanese Language Declaration

日本語宣言書

下々の氏名を発明者として、私は以下の通り宣言します。

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

私の住所、私書箱、国籍は下記の私の氏名の後に記載された通りです。

My residence, post office address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

下記の名称の発明に関して請求範囲に記載され、特許出願している発明内容について、私が最初かつ唯一の発明者（下記の氏名が一つの場合）もしくは最初かつ共同発明者であると（下記の名称が複数の場合）信じています。

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled

VOICE CODING METHOD, VOICE
CODING APPARATUS, AND VOICE
DECODING APPARATUS

上記発明の明細書（下記の欄で空白がついていない場合は、本書に添付）は、

the specification of which is attached hereto unless the following box is checked:

☐ 月 日に提出され、米国出願番号または特許協定条約国際出願番号を _____ とし、
 （該当する場合） _____ に訂正されました。

☐ was filed on _____
 as United States Application Number or
 PCT International Application Number
 _____ and was amended on
 _____ (if applicable).

私は、特許請求範囲を含む上記訂正後の明細書を検討し、内容を理解していることをここに表明します。

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

私は、連邦規則法典第37編第1章56項に定義されるとおり、特許資格の有無について重要な情報を開示する義務があることを認めます。

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Japanese Language Declaration (日本語宣言書)

私は、米国法典第35編119条(a)-(d)項又は365条(b)項に基づき下記の、米国外の国の少なくとも一カ国を指定している特許協力条約365(a)項に基づく国際出願、又は外国での特許出願もしくは発明者証の出願についての外国優先権をここに主張するとともに、優先権を主張している。本出願の前に出願された特許または発明者証の外国出願を以下に、枠内をマークすることで、示しています。

Prior Foreign Application(s)

外国での先行出願

10-246724

(Number)

(番号)

11-181959

(Number)

(番号)

Japan

(Country)

(国名)

Japan

(Country)

(国名)

私と、第35編米国法典119条(e)項に基づいて下記の米国外特許出願規定に記載された権利をここに主張いたします。

(Application No.)

(出願番号)

(Filing Date)

(出願日)

私は、下記の米国法典第35編120条に基づいて下記の米国外特許出願に記載された権利、又は米国外を指定している特許協力条約365条(c)項に基づき権利をここに主張します。また、本出願の各種書類の内容が米国法典第35編112条第1項又は特許協力条約で規定された方法で先行する米国外特許出願に開示されていない限り、その先行米国外特許出願提出日以降で本出願書の日本国内または特許協力条約国際提出日までの期間中に入力された、連邦規則法典第37編1.56条までの規定された特許資格の有無に関する重要な情報について開示義務があることを認識しています。

(Application No.)

(出願番号)

(Filing Date)

(出願日)

(Application No.)

(出願番号)

(Filing Date)

(出願日)

私は、私自身の知識に基づいて本宣言書で私が行う表明が真実であり、かつ私の入手した情報と私の信じることに基づき表明が全て真実であると信じていること、さらに故意になされた虚偽の表明及びそれと同等の行為は米国法典第18編第1001条に基づき、罰金または拘禁、もしくはその両方により処罰されること、そしてそのような故意による虚偽の表明を行えば、出願した、又は既に許可された特許の有効性が失われることを認識し、よってここに上記のごとく宣誓を致します。

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or 365(a) of any PCT International application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT International application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Priority Not Claimed

優先権主張なし

1st/September/1998

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

(出願年月日)

28th/June/1999

(Day/Month/Year Filed)

(出願年月日)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.)

(出願番号)

(Filing Date)

(出願日)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), or 365(c) of any PCT International application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT International application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code Section 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT International filing date of application.

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)

(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)

(現況: 特許許可済、係属中、放棄済)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Japanese Language Declaration (日本語宣言書)

委任状: 私は下記の発明者として、本出願に関する一切の
手続を米特許商標局に対して遂行する弁護士または代理人
として、下記の者を指名いたします。(弁護士、または代理
人の氏名及び登録番号を明記のこと)

POWER OF ATTORNEY: As a named inventor, I hereby appoint
the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this
application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark
Office connected therewith (list name and registration number)

書類送付先

Aaron B. KARAS, Reg. No. 18,923; Samson HELFGOTT,
Reg. No. 23,072 and Leonard COOPER Reg. No. 27,625
Send Correspondence to:
HELFGOTT & KARAS, P.C.
Empire State Building, 60th Floor
New York, New York 10118
United States of America

直接電話連絡先: (名前及び電話番号)

Direct Telephone Calls to: (name and telephone number)
Helfgott & Karas, P.C.
(212) 643-5000

唯一または第一発明者名	Full name of sole or first inventor Yasuji OTA
発明者の署名 日付	Inventor's signature <i>Yasuji Ota</i> Date August 16, 1999
住所	Residence Kanagawa, Japan
国籍	Citizenship Japan
私書箱	Post Office Address c/o FUJITSU LIMITED, 1-1, Kamikodanaka 4-chome, Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa 211-8588, Japan
第二共同発明者	Full name of second joint inventor, if any Masanao SUZUKI
第二共同発明者 日付	Second inventor's signature <i>Masanao Suzuki</i> Date August 16, 1999
住所	Residence Kanagawa, Japan
国籍	Citizenship Japan
私書箱	Post Office Address c/o FUJITSU LIMITED, 1-1, Kamikodanaka 4-chome, Nakahara-ku, Kawasaki-shi, Kanagawa 211-8588, Japan

(第三以降の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をす
ること)

(Supply similar information and signature for third and subsequent
joint inventors.)

第三共同発明者	Full name of third joint inventor, if any Yoshiteru TSUCHINAGA		
第三共同発明者	日付	Third inventor's signature <i>Yoshiteru Tsuchinaga</i>	Date August 16, 1989
住 所	Residence Fukuoka, Japan		
国 籍	Citizenship Japan		
私書箱	Post Office Address: c/o FUJITSU KYUSHU DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY LIMITED, 22-8, Hakataekimae 3-chome, Hakata-ku, Fukuoka-shi, Fukuoka 812-0011, Japan		
第四共同発明者	Full name of fourth joint inventor, if any		
第四共同発明者	日付	Fourth inventor's signature	Date
住 所	Residence		
国 籍	Citizenship		
私書箱	Post Office Address		

第五共同発明者	Full name of fifth joint inventor, if any		
第五共同発明者	日付	Fifth inventor's signature	Date
住 所	Residence		
国 籍	Citizenship		
私書箱	Post Office Address		
第六共同発明者	Full name of sixth joint inventor, if any		
第六共同発明者	日付	Sixth inventor's signature	Date
住 所	Residence		
国 籍	Citizenship		
私書箱	Post Office Address		

(第七以降の共同発明者についても同様に記載し、署名をすること)

(Supply similar information and signature for seventh and subsequent joint inventors.)

THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of: Yasuji OTA et al.

Filed: : Concurrently herewith

For : VOICE CODING METHOD, VOICE CODING APPARATUS, AND
VOICE DECODING APPARATUS

Serial No.: Concurrently herewith

August 31, 1999

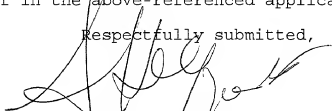
Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

SUB-POWER OF ATTORNEY

S I R:

I, Samson Helfgott Reg. No. 23,072 attorney of record
herein, do hereby grant a sub-power of attorney to Linda S.
Chan, Reg. No. 42,400 and Jacqueline M. Steady, Reg. No. 44,354
to act and sign in my behalf in the above-referenced application.

Respectfully submitted,



Samson Helfgott
Reg.No 23,072

HELFGOTT & KARAS, P.C.
60th FLOOR
EMPIRE STATE BUILDING
NEW YORK, NY 10118
DOCKET NO.: FUJO16.446
LH power

Filed Via Express Mail

Rec. No.: EM366877202US

On: August 31, 1999

By: 

Any fee due as a result of this paper, not covered
by an enclosed check may be charged on Deposit
Acct. No. 08-1634.